

Message Text

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SUBJ: TRANSKEI, SAG DISAGREE OVER CITIZENSHIP ISSUE

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1. DESPITE DENIALS BY TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA CONTINUING NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE AN APPARENTLY BASIC DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND TRANSKEI GOVERNMENTS OVER CITIZENSHIP TO BE ACCORDED BLACKS BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA OF PARENTS ORIGINALLY FROM THE TRANSKEI. THE TRANSKEI REPORTEDLY AGREED TO GRANT TRANSKEIAN CITIZENSHIP TO AFRICANS BORN IN THE TRANSKEI AND NOW LIVING IN WHITE AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SECOND-GENERATION URBAN AFRICANS WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN THE TRANSKEI NOR KNOWN RURAL LIFE.

2. IN CONTRAST, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HERETOFORE HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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INSISTED THAT ALL AFRICANS ARE CITIZENS OF ONE HOMELAND OR

OTHER AND THEREFORE ULTIMATELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS. THOUGH SOME SAG OFFICIALS RELATIVELY RECENTLY HAVE BEGUN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MEMBERS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGE URBAN AFRICAN POPULATION ARE NO LONGER MERELY "TEMPORARY SOJOURNERS" BUT A NECESSARY COMPONENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LABOR FORCE, THIS APPEARS TO BE AN ADJUSTMENT OF RHETORIC ONLY. IN EXAMPLE, AFRICANS WHO DESIRE THE SEMI-PERMANENCY OF A THIRTY-YEAR LEASE ON TOWNSHIP DWELLINGS STILL MUST ACCEPT CITIZENSHIP IN AN ETHNIC "HOMELAND" (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: MATANZIMA'S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT INTO THE TRANSKEI AFRICANS WHO HAVE LIVED THEIR ENTIRE LIVES IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT IS BASED ON PRACTICAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HAVING LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL LIFE AND TRADITIONS, THE RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED URBAN AFRICANS, SHOULD THEY RETURN HOME, COULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ADJUSTING TO THE TRANSKEI AND ITS AGRARIAN ECONOMY AND FORM A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF DISCONTENT WITH WHICH MATANZIMA'S ATAVISTIC REGIME COULD HAVE PROBLEMS. EFFORTS BY THE SAG THROUGH THE XHOSA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (XDC) TO PROVIDE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE TRANSKEI HAVE BEEN WOEFULLY INADEQUATE--THE XDC ADMITS ONLY 12,000 NEW JOBS WERE CREATED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS WHILE THE TRANSKEI'S LABOR FORCE HAS GROWN BY 10,000 EACH YEAR. THE RETURN OF EVEN SMALL NUMBERS OF URBAN AFRICANS TO THE TRANSKEI WOULD AGGRAVATE FURTHER THE HOMELAND'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

4. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE THAT MATANZIMA ACCEPT SUCH INDIVIDUALS AS CITIZENS IS EQUALLY CLEAR SINCE THE RAISON D'ETRE OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IS TO LEGITIMIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF AFRICANS BY PROVIDING FATHERLANDS WHERE THEY THEORETICALLY ENJOY THE FULL BENEFITS OF CITIZENSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PREFER TO RETAIN ITS OPTION TO BANISH RECALCITRANT URBAN AFRICANS TO THE HOMELANDS EVEN AFTER INDEPENDENCE (AFRICANS TO BE DEPORTED THEN INSTEAD OF BANISHED.)

5 IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MANY OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1.7 MILLION TRANSKEIANS WORKING IN WHITE AREAS ARE SECOND OR EVEN THIRD GENERATION URBANITES. WHATEVER THE NUMBER, UNCLASSIFIED

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IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE SAG WOULD RISK SETTING A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER HOMELANDS BY ACCEPTING SUCH TRANSKEIANS THEREBY REMOVING THE PRIME INCENTIVE--THE UNATTAINABILITY OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP--FOR HOMELAND INDEPENDENCE.
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